

## BRIEFS

### MONTANA BAPTISTS TRY 1ST CROSSOVER

HELENA, Mt. (BP) — Twenty-nine people from across Montana stayed an extra day after the 2018 annual meeting of the Montana Southern Baptist Convention to participate in the convention's first-ever Crossover evangelistic initiative. "It was a great start for us," Barrett Duke, MTSBC executive director, told Baptist Press. "We need to be doing all we can to reach more people for Christ and be more aggressive in reaching the lost and making disciples. This is a fairly easy way to ramp up that emphasis." The annual meeting, known in Montana as "Refresh," took place Oct. 4-6 at Big Sky Fellowship in Helena.

### EUROPEAN DOCTOR, BAKERS WIN CASES

EUROPE (BP) — Freedom of conscience war against charges of discriminating two European high court Oct. 10 and 11, affirming rights of a pro-life physician and a baker opposed to homosexual marriage. Physician Katarzyna Jachimowicz cited her Christianity in refusing to implant an intrauterine birth control device in a patient in Norway. In the United Kingdom, Christian bakers Amy and Daniel McArthur declined to bake a cake with the slogan, "Support Gay Marriage," for a local homosexual rights advocate.

### TERRY HONORED FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

BIRMINGHAM, AL (BP) — Friends, family, and ministry colleagues of Mississippi College graduate Bob Terry gathered to celebrate his 50 years in state Baptist newspaper work and 23 years as editor of The Alabama Baptist. Holding a commendation from Alabama Governor Kay Ivey, Terry said, "I'm very humbled to be standing in this place. I've tried to be a good and faithful servant to God and to Baptists. Thank you for the privilege and the opportunity." Terry, who also served as editor of Missouri Baptists' newspaper, Word and Way, prior to returning to his home state, will retire Dec. 31.



**GETTING READY** — Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers from Belden Church, Belden, in Lee Association prepare for another day of service for the Lord on behalf of victims of Hurricane Michael in the Albany, Ga., area. Members of the Belden Church chain saw crew included (from left) Greg Mason, Donald Worthey, Barry Flanagan, Gary Mark, Sammy Green, and Richard Garrett. (Photo by Shane McGivney)

## Hurricanes deplete DR funding

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Task Force, reflecting God's concern for people in North and Eastern

destructive hurricanes to strike the U.S. since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 have drawn down Mississippi Baptists' disaster relief funds and led to calls for financial gifts to continue response and recovery operations in the name of the Lord.

"Volunteer members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief

Seaboard on Sept. 14 and caused billions of dollars in damage and destruction. Then Hurricane Michael wreaked havoc along the Florida Panhandle on Oct. 10, leaving behind devastation as far as Georgia and the Carolinas.

"The need is great. Resources are limited. Our equipment needs upgrading," said Shane

McGivney, director of men's ministry and Task Force coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). "Financial gifts are greatly needed. Mississippi Baptists have been a strong presence in these responses, and we need help. We promise to be good stewards of every dollar given."

McGivney projected more than 70 Task Force volunteers from Mississippi Baptist churches will be on the ground by the

see HURRICANES on p. 8

## Imprisoned U.S. pastor Brunson free at last

ALIAGA, Turkey (BP and local reports) — Pastor Andrew Brunson met with U.S. President Donald Trump in The White House



BRUNSON

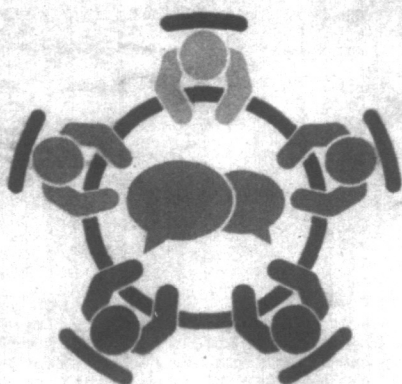
on Oct. 13, upon being released by Turkish authorities after two years' incarceration on disputed charges that could have led to life imprisonment.

Brunson, who had ministered in Turkey for 20 years, was swept up in a mass arrest campaign after a 2016 failed coup and accused of collaborating with Muslim insurgents. In a much-criticized trial that included secret witnesses who testified against him, Brunson was sentenced to over three years imprisonment.

The North Carolina native is an ordained minister of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission in Nashville, said the release is an answer to prayer.

see BRUNSON on p. 9



PASTOR/LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT

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## From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

### Stormy waters

**W**e live in a time of "emerging" churches, "satellite campuses," and "blended" worship services. Some churches have dropped "Baptist" from their names, and some now refer to Sunday School not as Sunday School but such things as "Life Groups." That is, if they haven't dropped Sunday School altogether in favor of small home meetings during the week.

"We don't have a worship service at my church any longer. We have an entertainment hour," lamented a Mississippi Baptist not long ago. "My pastor doesn't even bring his Bible to the pulpit on Sunday," said a Mississippi Baptist from the other side of the state. "All we hear are lectures on pop culture and feel-good-about-yourself, Joel Osteen-style messages." (Osteen is a popular TV preacher and author from a Word of Faith background in Houston, Texas.)

It's safe to say that the Christian church has undergone a few changes over its 2,000-year history. The church has adapted to circumstances, good and bad. Some of those changes turned out well, and some were mistakes (to say the least). Many of the good ideas served a purpose and were retired after a very long, useful life. Many of the bad ideas have come and gone, too. Some of the good has stuck around, as has some of the bad.

The point is that while all change is not good, change is not entirely bad, either. In some of the examples above, people have taken change too far in an effort to respond to cultural pressures they are apparently feeling. Such cultural pressure is not isolated to Mississippi Baptists or Southern Baptists.

The Episcopal Church in America, for another example, decided a few years ago to condone and openly support the elevation of minister Eugene Robinson, a practicing homosexual with a live-in lover, to lead the Diocese of New Hampshire. Many of the member denominations of the worldwide Anglican Communion, of which

the Episcopal Church in America is a member, have condemned that decision but the Episcopal Church in America has been steadfast in its decision to bend to cultural pressure in this important area of our mutual Christian witness.

Since then, Episcopalians have opened wide their doors to virtually anyone, regardless of biblical strictures, by claiming themselves to be an "affirming church." Not to pick on Episcopalians, but theirs is a cautionary narrative for Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists.

These are stormy waters we are presently attempting to navigate. It would be easy to simply say change is good — because it often is — but we must in all things guard against the watering down of the central message of our faith for the sake of change. Namely, that a loving and just God chose to reveal Himself through His Son Jesus Christ, so that all who believe can be saved and enjoy eternal life with Him in Heaven (John 3:16).

There are manifold ways to deliver that simple message to a lost world. The problem is that too many of us have gone too far afield, complicating and even adulterating the message in a compromise to get people in the door.

There's nothing wrong with conducting a Saturday evening worship service, but it is wrong to tell people there may indeed be avenues open to God other than a profession of faith in Jesus Christ. There's nothing wrong with drums and electric guitars in church, but it is wrong to say that sin and the eternal damnation sin brings are outmoded or discredited concepts.

The lists and the arguments about the lists could go on and on, but one point we must never forget in our rush to contemporize all things religious: Hell is hot, Heaven is sweet, and Jesus saves.

Let's make sure a lost world hears that message loud and clear, both by our words and deeds. The rest will take care of itself.

## Preach the Gospel

**A**s a young man, when I accepted the call to pastor a church I was both excited and terrified — excited to begin the new season of leading and serving Christ's bride yet terrified that I may fail them.

When it came to weekly tasks, my greatest concern was whether I could be fully prepared for the Sunday morning sermon, especially considering all the other teaching, administrative, and ministry-oriented duties of the pastorate.

All things considered, I felt wholly inadequate in this new calling but I came to learn that wasn't altogether a bad thing.

"For to God we are the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing," the Apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 2:15-17 (CSB). "To some we are an aroma of death but to others, an aroma of life leading to life. Who is adequate for these things? For we do not market the word of God for profit like so many. On the contrary, we speak with sincerity in Christ, as from God and before God."

Pastor, the weekly privilege of preaching God's Word to God's flock is no small task. Some would say it is the most significant, most valuable thing you do every week. After hours of studying the text and praying for the Holy Spirit's discernment, wisdom, and anointing, God gives you the awesome responsibility of representing Him and presenting His Word before a group of people who have gathered to meet with Him and to hear from Him.

The message of Christ is a matter of "life" and "death," Paul writes in verse 15. "Who is adequate for these things?" the apostle asks rhetorically in the next verse.

"No one" is the appropriate response. Apart from the calling of God in Jesus Christ, not one of us is educated enough, dynamic enough, faithful enough, or eloquent enough to represent God and present His Word every week.

Apart from Christ, the preacher brings absolutely nothing to the table. There is no room for boasting or pride in the pulpit. The gravity of our weekly task would completely devastate us apart from the call of the heavenly Father, the redemption of Christ Jesus, and the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

"Profit," as Paul indicates in verse 17, is a dangerous motive for preaching God's Word. If the question is, "What might I gain from preaching today?" I have failed before I have



### Guest opinion with Tony Wolfe

begun. What is it that I hope to gain from preaching? Money? Acclaim? Admiration? Experience? The preacher is only prepared to stand in the pulpit when he seeks no such earthly reward.

Our only gain is found in our humbled obedience to God. A quote most commonly attributed to Nikolaus Zinzendorf (1700-1760), the German religious and social reformer and bishop of the Moravian Church, comes to mind: "Preach the Gospel. Die. Be forgotten."

Also in verse 17, the apostle offers a single guiding thought that may do us all good as we prepare and preach every week: "as from God and before God." Is this message a message from God? Am I preaching it today as if God Himself is in the room watching and listening?

Pastor, perhaps you struggle at times with the same feelings of inadequacy in the pulpit but still, resting only in the call of the Father and the anointing of the Spirit you stand in the pulpit every week proclaiming Christ and Him crucified.

Be encouraged. When Paul meditates on the gravity of his preaching task, he comes to the conclusion in this passage that on our own, none of us are "adequate for these things," but you can fill the pulpit every week in humbled, impassioned obedience to God when the message you have prepared is "from God" and is being delivered "before God."

When the message is from God, He communicates it through you to those He gathers and when the message is before God, He looks on you, preacher, with smiling eyes of approval and affirmation.

*Wolfe is director of pastor/church relations for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention in Dallas. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press. Edited for style.*

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# Don't give up Old Testament, lecturer exhorts

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP and local reports) — When the apostles preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they used Old Testament texts.

Preachers in the New Testament era possess the completed canon of Scripture, but that shouldn't mean they rely exclusively on the New Testament when preaching Christ, Philip Ryken stated during the 2018 E.Y. Mullins Lectures on Christian Preaching at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Ryken, president of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., presented the annual E.Y. Mullins Lectures on Christian Preaching at Southern Seminary. His four lectures addressed the foundations for and applications of preaching Jesus Christ from the Old Testament.

According to the college's web site, Wheaton College is a Christian liberal arts school established by evangelical abolitionists in 1860. The late evangelist Billy Graham graduated from Wheaton College in 1943 with a degree in anthropology.

The Mullins Lectures, named in honor of Southern Seminary's fourth president, represent one of the oldest endowed preaching lectureships in the United States, second only to Yale University's Lyman Beecher Lectureship on Preaching.

Andy Stanley, senior pastor at North Point Community Church in Alpharetta, Ga., raised eyebrows recently when he preached that Christians should "unhitch" themselves from the Old Testament.

"Jesus' new covenant, His covenant with the nations, His covenant with you, His covenant with us, can stand on its own two nail-scarred resurrection feet. It does not need propping up by the Jewish scriptures," Stanley was reported to have said.

Ryken, who did not refer to Stanley's comments, laid foundations for his lectures by enumerating 31 reasons to preach and teach from the Old Testament, including theological assumptions such as, "the Old Testament is the Word of God;" interpretive observations such as "the Old Testament is Christ's method of preaching the Gospel;" and historical precedent such as preaching Christ from the Old Testament as "strongly vindicated by the history of the church."

The 31 reasons are not exhaustive, Ryken said, but are meant to encourage curiosity and excitement about preaching Christ from the Old Testament Scriptures.

Ryken moved from foundations into an exposition of Exodus 1:22-2:10; the passage that details the birth of Moses and his mother sending him in a basket into the Nile River. From the passage, Ryken observed that God works in human history, that He is overcoming evil and that His work culminates in Jesus Christ.

He noted parallels between Moses' story and the birth of Jesus, another Jewish baby who fled a murderous king and grew up to rescue His people.

Ryken traced the theme of salvation throughout the book of Exodus, spanning Israel's deliverance from Egypt and the Red Sea to God's presence with His people during their wilderness wander-

ings to the tabernacle. Each of these stories entails a narrative of redemption that carries significance even 2,000 years later, Ryken said. Approaching the text this way, "the salvation God has accomplished in history becomes the story of your own salvation," he said.

The preacher's job is not just to understand the Old Testament but also to apply it to daily life, starting with the preacher himself, Ryken said during a subsequent session of his lectures. He used Ezra, the Jewish priest who reintroduced the returned Israelite exiles to the Scriptures, as an example of faithful application of biblical teaching.

According to Ezra 7:10, the teacher "set his heart to the study of the Law of the Lord, to do it and teach his statutes and rules in Israel." Ryken noted that Ezra, according to Jewish tradition, was considered the greatest student of Scripture after Moses. Though Ezra knew the Scripture well, he also applied it to his life before he taught it, Ryken said, describing Ezra as having a holy ambition to teach the Bible to the people of Israel that emerged from his personal devotion to God's Word.

This same kind of conviction should motivate seminary students preparing for ministry, Ryken said.

"What have you set your heart on?" he asked. "I'm sure your commitment when you started to study here was to understand as much about the Scriptures as you could. What about your commitment to growing in personal holiness — was that right up to the level of your commitment to studying biblical truth? Are you still leaning into it and are you still intent to grow in the Christian life? Are you nurturing through prayer a desire to serve others through what you're learning through God's Word?"

It is dangerous to understand biblical truth without experiencing it, Ryken said, commenting that seminary students usually are ambitious to understand theology and doctrine on a deeper level, but their personal growth and spiritual discipline often lags behind. This not only hampers their ministry, he said, but also damages their souls. He encouraged students to lean into their prayer lives and to nurture a desire to serve others through what they are learning in class.

To know God in a biblical sense, Ryken said, believers must trust, obey, and be like Him. "A seminary like this is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be," he said, "because of the accountability you will have for what you are learning from God's Word. If all you're doing is taking [information] in without putting it into practice or sharing it with others, it's going to be unhealthy. What Ezra describes here is the healthy life for a seminary student."

Ryken also highlighted the importance of practical application in sermons, which is a natural extension of this personal application. The Puritans, he pointed out, spent half of their sermon on application; they didn't just teach on doctrine, but also its "use" in daily life.

Pastors should work as hard on application as they do on exposition, Ryken said. "Different people in a congregation need God's truth in different ways, depending on who they are and depending on their life's circumstances," he said,



**OLD TESTAMENT TALK** — Philip Ryken, president of Wheaton College in Wheaton, Ill., presented the annual E.Y. Mullins Lectures on Christian Preaching at Southern Seminary. His four lectures addressed the foundations for and applications of preaching Jesus Christ from the Old Testament. (BP photo courtesy of Southern Seminary)

recounting that he likes to pray before preaching that the Holy Spirit would use the sermon in unique ways for each person in his congregation.

This kind of application also is apparent in the Pauline epistles, Ryken said, describing the apostle Paul's exhortations as specific, dealing not only with behavior, but instead into deeper motivations, desires and matters of the heart.

"Paul doesn't just tell you, 'Do this; don't do that,' which is pretty easy to fall into as a preacher," Ryken said. "The Gospel doesn't tell us to do a better job so that we can measure up more closely to God's standards. The Gospel assumes that we don't measure up to those standards, which is why we need God's grace."

"The law says, 'Do this and you will live.' The Gospel pronounces a resurrection word to us and says, 'Live!' and then the Scripture says, 'Now, do this' as a way of living out the life that God has put into us by the resurrection power of the Holy Spirit."

Ezra's ambition ultimately reaches its fulfillment in the New Covenant era, Ryken said, in which preachers have a full knowledge of God's redemptive purposes and can teach the full revelation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Ezra would have given "anything and everything" to know the completion of God's plan and to teach not only rules and statutes but

also Gospel and grace, Ryken said. Yet the means of faithful teaching remain the same: personal application of Scripture to the preacher's soul before public application of Scripture in the lives of the congregation.

"God needs to do a work in us before He can use us to do His work in others," Ryken said. "And that's not a one-and-done, either. It's not as if you study for awhile, then apply it, then teach. You're continuing to study the Word of God, you're continuing to strive after new obedience and new areas of repentance. So there's continuously a fruit of God's work in your life to share with others."

As for public application, pastors need to remember the Gospel, Ryken said. They shouldn't give people a list of right and wrong but instead call them to a more intimate knowledge of the Father.

"When we're talking about applying God's truth, we're not just giving people a 'to-do' list," Ryken said.

"We are actually helping them come to a deeper knowledge of God, and a knowledge of God in a comprehensive way — not just knowing about God, but a personal knowledge and encounter with the living God for life and eternity."

*Editor's note: Audio and video of the Mullins Lectures will be available online at [equip.sbts.edu](http://equip.sbts.edu).*

A few months ago, I had preached in one of our churches on Sunday morning and after the service was standing around talking to folks about the service and about their church. A lady who was in the circle of conversation apologetically said to me that she was sorry that she and her husband were late getting to the service. I had not thought anything about it and said that was fine and I was glad they got there. She said, "You probably saw us come in." I said, "I did, but it didn't bother me." Obviously, it had bothered her.

Her husband, who was not there talking with us, had contributed to them being late so she wasn't happy about that. The conversation moved on, except she said to me and the group that was there, "I've learned to pick my gripes." She was indicating that the one she had just expressed needed to be released! She even indicated that she had narrowed her gripes down to about two or three a day. I doubt that, in any way, she is abnormal. She may be abnormal in choosing only two or three gripes a day, but it would do all of us good to stop and think about how much we do complain, gripe, and fuss about life. We would probably all do well to tamp down the complaints we have and learn to pick our gripes more carefully.

The Bible talks about complaining and griping. The word in Old English that comes up most often is the word, murmuring. In 1 Corinthians 10:10 the Bible says, "Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer." Talk about an example of you don't need to go here, or sit around and mur-



## Pick Your Gripes

mur under your breath, fussing and complaining, griping about everything that comes up. Listen as the Apostle Paul writes to the church in Philippi and says, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings..." (Phil. 2:14). What a good word for every one of us. Maybe the goal is for us to get down not to two or three gripes. Zero would be a good place to be. Does that mean that we're not to have opinions about things? No, not at all. Does that mean we can't express ourselves to others? No, gripe all you want, I suppose, but I would point out two or three things that might be helpful to me and to you.

Many of you may know who Coach Lou Holtz is — the great old football coach who is now retired but still on television from time to time. He tells about his wife complaining about him smoking a pipe. This in no way

is saying that it's okay for people to smoke a pipe, but he in his twenties was given a pipe by his wife. For some special occasion in their life together, she gave him the gift of a fine pipe. He began to use it. As time went on, it became one of her gripes. She kept telling him that he needed to quit smoking the pipe. Finally, Lou Holtz told his wife, "You gave me the pipe. It's one of the few vices I have." Everybody has faults and failures and maybe a vice. He told her, "I do not cuss. I do not drink. I do not run around with other women. Now, you gave me the pipe. If you want to swap that vice out for one of these others, just let me know and we'll try to work out some deal." That was not what she was wanting to do, but he somewhat made his point though it may not have registered fully with her.

The other point that I would make

is that if you are going to pick out one or two or three things to gripe about in other people, they may find twice that many to gripe about you. Everybody seems to have the gift of "gripy-ness" from time to time, so as you start expressing your complaints, murmuring, and gripes, just realize those actions may come back to bite you. Maybe a better thing to do is just to think about what we can do to change the way we look at things, the way we respond to things, the way we act and react to things, and the way we complain and gripe or not.

One of the essentials is the redeeming power of Christ to change our thought life. Philippians 2:5 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." What would happen if we think like Jesus? In Romans 12:2, Paul says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." Instead of letting all those old thoughts reside and continue to fume and percolate, let your mind be renewed in Christ.

I have literally seen in people's lives that transforming power of Christ bring new thinking and even His mind entering their being. Sometimes when we are moved to complain and gripe or when we've moved beyond that into bitterness and even anger, we're far, far better off if instead we move toward "better-ness" rather than bitterness. For all of us, how much better off would we be and will we be if we don't just pick our gripes but choose to pick up our gripes and dispose of them and do without them. God bless each of us to do so.

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## BIBL i O C I P H E R

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Clue: K = O

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: John 6:44

By Charles Marx, 1932-2004, © 2005

## Revivals & Homecomings

► **Galilee Church, Hazlehurst:** 190th homecoming, Oct. 21; service, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch; Charles Ramsey, speaker; Peggy Phillips, pianist.  
► **First Church Oloh, Sumrall:** Homecoming, Oct. 21; service, 10 a.m.  
► **Pine Grove Church, Nettleton:** Homecoming, Oct. 21; brief history of the church, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by food, fellowship, and gospel singing; David Smith, speaker;

Redeemed, music.  
► **Bentonis Church, Benton:** Homecoming, Oct. 21; special music by the Hankins Family, 10 a.m.; service, 11 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds; Joe Wright, speaker.  
► **Bay Springs Church, Abbeville:** 182nd homecoming, Oct. 21; service, 10 a.m., followed by dinner on the ground and singing; Jay Derryberry, speaker and pastor; Mitch Stone, music.  
► **First Church, Clara:** Homecoming, Oct. 21; service, 10:30

a.m., followed by meal; James E. Messer, speaker; Ryan and Amanda Carter, music.  
► **New Providence Church, Carthage:** Homecoming, Oct. 21, beginning at 9:30 a.m.; revival, Oct. 21 - 24, 6:30 p.m. nightly; Wiley Abel, speaker.  
► **First Church, Strengthford:** Homecoming and 148th anniversary, Oct. 21; special music by The Nelson Family, 10:30 a.m., followed by message by Donald Miller and fellowship meal; Bobby Boutwell, pastor.

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# Search opens for Rainer successor at LifeWay

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — The LifeWay Christian Resources presidential search committee is currently accepting nominations for a successor to retiring president and chief executive officer Thom Rainer, committee chairman Kent Dacus announced.

The search committee met in late September to develop a process for the search, Dacus reported. The committee, which is accepting nominations at



**RAINER**

**DACUS**

LifeWayCEO@carterbaldwin.com, will work with the executive search firm CarterBaldwin

to identify potential candidates.

Dacus, vice president of student services at California Baptist University in Riverside and member of The Grove Community Church in Riverside, as committee chairman asked Southern Baptists to continue to pray for the committee as they seek God's guidance in choosing LifeWay's next leader. "We do not take our task lightly," Dacus said. "It is a tremen-

dous responsibility God and the trustee board have placed on the search committee.

"We are seeking God's wisdom and direction as we look for an individual who will lead LifeWay into the future. We would ask Southern Baptists to pray for the committee as well as for the individual whom God has prepared to lead LifeWay."

Rainer announced Aug. 27 that he plans to retire in

the coming year after 13 years of leading the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Convention entity previously known as the Baptist Sunday School Board.

A seven-person search committee was named to discover LifeWay's next leader during their Aug. 27-28 trustee meeting in Nashville. No Mississippi Baptist trustees were named to the search committee.



**ON THE HIGH COURT** — Brett Kavanaugh, his wife Ashley (second from right) and daughters Margaret (left) and Liza (second from left) looking on, is sworn in by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts as the court's 114th justice. (BP photo courtesy of Fred Schilling/Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States)

## So. Baptists seek peace after bitter Kavanaugh confirmation

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — Southern Baptist leaders called for prayer and the restoration of civility in public discourse in the wake of the highly divisive battle that ended with Brett Kavanaugh's narrow confirmation as an associate justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Now that the confirmation process is over, we must pray for healing for our country after a time of such division," said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville, "and for the future of the Supreme Court, especially in the areas of religious freedom and human dignity."

Evan Lenow, associate professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary in Ft. Worth, noted, "During these very contentious days, it is important for us to heed [the Apostle] Paul's words to Timothy in 1 Timothy 2:1-2 where he urges him to pray for all people, especially those in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

"I hope that we do not forget the final part of this admonition — to live in godliness and dignity," Lenow, director of the seminary's Land Center for Cultural Engagement, said in written comments to Baptist Press (BP).

"While much of the political discourse of our day is rancorous, we need to remember that we should be dignified and gracious with all people, especially those with whom we disagree," he stressed.

David McKinley, pastor-teacher at Warren Church in Augusta, Ga., and a periodic columnist in Baptist Press, noted, "He has been confirmed and it is time to move ahead. I pray he serves our nation well."

"As believers we know this battle is only a reminder of our need to pray for the repentance, reform, and reconciliation only God can bring within a nation. And we need to do all we can to make peace within our communities, building up faith, hope, and love through the witness and good works of our churches to the glory of God."

John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) and recording secretary of the Southern Baptist Convention, told BP, "Not in my lifetime or my father's lifetime has so much national capital been expended to confirm a Supreme Court judge. I am not sure it mattered too much who the candidate was. There was going to be an ideological war waged and many wounds."

"Perhaps the greatest wound is on the nation itself where the confirmation process from this day forward will be marred by political posturing instead of civil advice and consent (Psalm 9:15, 19-20)."

"We are in desperate need of the Holy God to awaken the citizens of this republic to its principles of governing and responsibility of common courtesy toward one another," stated the former editor of MBC's newspaper, Word and Way. "Recent actions should not surprise us when the percentage of lostness is at an all-time high in proportion to our population."

## Christian mother's life in the hands of Pakistan high court

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (BP)** — Christian mother Asia Bibi only

offered a Muslim coworker a drink of water but was subsequently convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to death. She awaits the result of her final court appeal heard Oct. 8.

The coworker said Bibi's Christianity made the water ceremonially unclean, setting off a chain of false accusations related to Bibi's beliefs and backed by Muslim clerics.

The Supreme Court of Pakistan heard hours of testimony before deferring a ruling in the case with no official timeline, according to news reports, but may render a decision at any time.

The American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) said the delay might signal good news for Bibi in a country where Christians are increasingly treated with hostility by society and the justice system.

"Given the religiously-charged atmosphere of the country regarding blasphemy cases, it is understandable that the court would avoid announcing its decision yesterday, especially if it is in Asia Bibi's favor," ACLJ reported Oct. 9 at aclj.org.

The hostile climate for Christians, who number less than four million people in a country of 196 million people, is evidenced by frequent reports of public, institutional, and governmental violence against religious minorities.

Mob violence, police torture, rape, and murder are frequent, the ACLJ's European counterpart told the United Nations General Assembly as recently as August.

As of Oct. 8, police had arrested no one in the killing of a Christian father of four, Sumi Saleem, believed beaten

to death by doctors and hospital staff at the Government Services Institute of Medical Sciences in Lahore, Morning Star News reported.

Saleem had complained when a doctor refused to treat his pregnant sister who was laboring to give birth March 26.

Muslims have repeatedly attempted to destroy with a crane St. Matthew's Catholic Church in Layyah, assaulting church members with clubs and other weapons. Days in advance of a Sept. 19 hearing in the case, about 60 Muslims assaulted Christians at the church that was built by parishioners, ACLJ reported Sept. 7.

The mob continued to beat Christians as they fled to their homes. In such cases police typically refuse to intervene but instead tell Christians to flee the violence, according to news reports.

Christians are living in fear in Muslim Town, a community with a large following of the Tehreek-e-Labbaik radical Muslim party (TLP), after party member Rafique Ahmed reportedly framed a 24-year-old Christian, Farhan Aziz, for blasphemy.

The Christian's family told Morning Star that Ahmed, whose sister was a Christian whom Aziz had dated, had participated in a scheme to rob Aziz of money and leveled false charges in August when Aziz uncovered the ruse.

In a village near Faisalabad, police have refused to protect Full Gospel Assemblies Church, World Watch Monitor reported in June. Under pressure from village Muslims, World Watch said, police forbid Christians to worship at the church and in their homes, telling church leaders they must register with civil authorities for protection.

No such provision is stipulated in Pakistani law, according to World Watch.

## Just for the Record



**BELDEN CHURCH, BELDEN**, celebrated the 10th year anniversary of Gary Gray's service of ministry Sept. 30.



**ROBINSON CHURCH, PEORIA**, hosted a Blessing of the Hunters breakfast and fellowship Sept. 30.



**ETHEL CHURCH, ETHEL**, held a deacon ordination service for Trent White. Shown are Ralph Hunt, Lina White, and White.



**EDWARDS CHURCH, EDWARDS**, recently ordained Thomas (Tommy) Newton to the deacon ministry. Shown, seated, are Newton and his wife Debbie; Monty Montgomery, left, and pastor Jimmy Barrentine, right.



**MT. GILEAD CHURCH, MERIDIAN'S**, VBS director Debbie Holloman and some of her VBS workers and students presented their VBS offering of \$1,160 to Datha Ray for the Lauderdale Association's Crisis Center.



The members of **ESCATAWPA CHURCH, MOSS POINT**, honored pastor Matt Morse and his family for Pastor Appreciation Month and for his birthday Oct. 7.



**BELDEN CHURCH, BELDEN**, recently ordained Jeffrey Wages into the deacon ministry. Shown are Heather Wages, Wages, and pastor Jim Holcomb.



**SCHLATER CHURCH, MID-DELTA ASSOCIATION**, recently ordained Jason Colquett as deacon. Shown are daughters Mary Nannette, Lane, Colquett, wife Caroline, and daughter Helen.



**PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, QUITMAN**, held a GA recognition service Sept. 30. The GA girls were presented wall hangings with badges earned this year and GA Journey stars. Lisa Ivey and Vida Miller, leaders.



**STEELE CHURCH, FOREST**, recently held a baby dedication. Shown are Daniel, Brooke, and Annie Kate Monk, pastor Joey Smith, and Donovan, Amber, and Kolby Cooksey.



## College News



Dan Grafton has been honored as **MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE** Alumnus of the Year. He was president of L-3 Vertex in Madison for 16 years. He earned his bachelor's degree in business from the University of South Alabama in 1974 and his MBA at MC in 1980.

### In other College News:

► Two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin will serve as the keynote speaker at the annual **Mississippi College Dr. Don Phillips Athletics Dinner**. The Ohio State University football legend headlines an annual event that's raised more than \$2 million to boost MC sports. The dinner is set for November 6 on the Clinton campus. The program begins 6:30 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

## Staff Changes

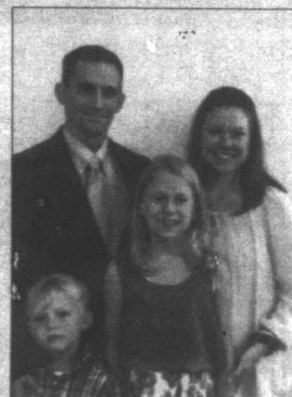
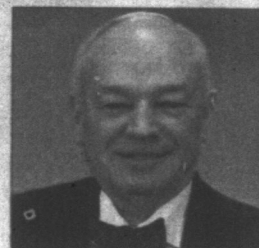


**PLEASANT GROVE CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN**, has called Bobby McKay as pastor. He received his education from Blue Mountain College, New Orleans Seminary, Campbellsville University, and Princeton Theological Seminary. Shown are McKay, his wife Amy, and daughters Mary Lawrence and Lydia Catherine.



**GRANDVIEW CHURCH, PEARL**, held a retirement reception for Wade Chappell and his wife Glenda. Oct. 3 marked his 50th year in ministry, 38 of which were at Grandview.

**HILLCREST CHURCH, BYHALIA**, has called David G. Shackelford as pastor. He is currently Chairman and Professor of the Department of New Testament at Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, where he has been on faculty for 30 years. He will remain in that position. He and his wife Suzie have four children and two grandchildren.



**SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, MORTON**, has called Jerry Lewis as pastor. He is shown with his wife Amanda and children Brooke and Eli.

## Just for the Record



**MONT ROSE CHURCH, QUITMAN**, dedicated its new fellowship hall Aug. 26. Shown are building committee members Hope Herrington, Rob Riley, John Roy Moore, Betty Hennington, pastor Matthew Johnson, and minister of music Kit Chancellor.



**FIRST CHURCH, LAUDERDALE**, ordained Andrew Hardy to the deacon ministry Sept. 23. Shown are pastor Richie Davis, Hardy, and Lauren Hardy.

### In other Church News:

► **First Church, Sumrall**, is hosting Heaven's Jubilee Quartet Homecoming Sing Oct. 20, 6:30 p.m., featuring The Talleys, Heaven's Jubilee, and Kole Johnson.



**BETHANY CHURCH, CALHOUN ASSOCIATION**, held a parent/child dedication Sept. 16. Shown are the Easley family, pastor Anthony Stephens, and the Failor family.

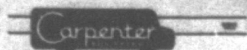
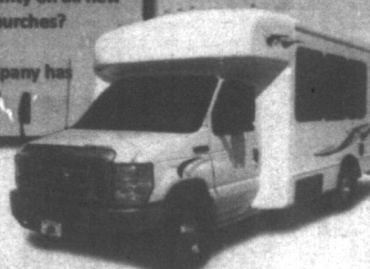
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4. Which Bus Company has the best prices?

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# Miss. Baptists to serve on NOBTS search comm.

**NEW ORLEANS (BP and local reports)** — Two Mississippi Baptist pastors were named Oct. 11 by New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) trustee chairman Frank Cox to serve on the 11-member presidential search committee to replace the retiring Chuck Kelley.

Bryant Barnes, pastor of First Church, Columbia, and Gary Shows, interim executive pastor of Temple Church, Hattiesburg, are Cox's picks to represent Mississippi Baptists on the search committee.

In addition, former Mississippi Baptist pastor Tony Lambert, currently pastor of Riverside Church in Denver, Co., will serve as an alternate member of committee.

"We ask that Southern Baptists pray for us as we seek God's man to lead New Orleans Seminary into the next

"We ask that Southern Baptists pray for us as we seek God's man to lead New Orleans Seminary into the next century of ministry here in New Orleans and surrounding regions."

**Frank Cox**

**New Orleans Seminary trustee chairman**

century of ministry here in New Orleans and surrounding regions," Cox said.

The NOBTS bylaws call for the trustee chairman to appoint a committee with 11 voting members that includes the board chairman, the immediate past chairman, one faculty member, one student, and seven other board members.

In addition to Barnes, Shows, and Lambert, presidential search committee members are:

■ Jack Bell, trustee and pastor of First Church, Hornbeck, La.

■ Frank Cox, trustee chairman and pastor of North Metro Church, Lawrenceville, Ga.

■ John Foster, trustee and retired educator, New Orleans.

■ David Leavell, trustee and pastor of First Church, Millington, Tn.

■ Jackie Myers, trustee and education specialist, Sicily Island, La.

■ David Um, trustee and

pastor of Antioch Church, Cambridge, Ma.

■ Dan Wilson, immediate past trustee chairman and professor of biblical studies at California Baptist University in Riverside.

■ Bo Rice, faculty representative and assistant professor of evangelism and preaching and dean of graduate studies.

■ Michael Wang, student representative and doctor of philosophy student.

"I have deliberately chosen a cross section from our board of trustees, seminary faculty, and student body which represents our diversity in our ethnicity as well as demographically," Cox said. "Each one chosen brings a wealth of experience that will strengthen the process."

The NOBTS board of trustees approved a bylaw amendment

at their Oct. 3 meeting that added two trustee alternates. The alternates will attend all the meetings but will not have a vote unless another search committee member withdraws from the committee.

If a search committee member withdraws, Cox will appoint one of the alternates to serve as a voting member. The other alternate in addition to Lambert is Waylon Bailey, pastor of First Church, Covington, La.

The search committee will begin formal meetings in November. After the initial meeting, the committee will release a list of qualifications for the type of leader they are seeking and will establish an avenue by which Southern Baptists can recommend qualified individuals for consideration, Cox said.

## HURRICANES

cont. from p. 1

beginning of next week in Albany, Ga., where Michael caused significant damage as it moved inland and then back out to sea. He also estimated volunteers will be in the area through at least November of this year.

"We have 250 work orders so far for chain saw crews and debris removal in this two-county area alone," he said. "There was no flooding but the need for chain saw and debris removal teams is great."

An incident command center has been established at First Church, Albany, to dispatch the chain saw and debris removal teams. Even though the church sustained roof and ceiling damage, it has opened its kitchen facilities to relief workers for mass feeding service and a Mississippi crew is staffing that operation.

Disaster relief volunteers are also sleeping in the church's Sunday School rooms, McGivney noted.

"Right now we have Mississippi Baptist disaster relief volunteers over here from Ripley in the far north of the state to the Gulf Coast in the south," he said.

McGivney explained that tax-deductible financial gifts are most effective because:

■ Precisely what is needed, when it is needed, may be purchased to support operations during response and recovery as well as eliminate problems of outdated and unneeded items.

■ Handling, storing, documenting, and transporting financial contributions is easier and utilizes fewer resources than in-kind donations.

■ Monetary donations help prevent the "second disaster" of stockpiling useless in-kind donations. After every disaster there are often truckloads of materials



**CLEANUP UNDERWAY** — Checking the equipment before the start of another day of Hurricane Michael debris removal in the Albany, Ga., area, are Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Task Force volunteers (from left) Jim Gholson of Bethel Church, Water Valley; Billy Stark of O'Tucklofa Church, Water Valley; and Mike Parker of Tate Church, Corinth. (Photo by Shane McGivney)

that were completely unusable that must be distributed or rehoused, or disposed of. This takes valuable time, effort, and manpower away from assisting those in need.

■ Nonprofit organizations are able to provide tax-deductible receipts to donors.

■ Purchasing products in a disaster-impacted area helps rebuild the local economy. Getting the wheels of the economy moving in a disaster area is a key component in the recovery process.

■ Leveraging pre-established relationships and making wholesale/bulk purchases allows voluntary organizations to purchase more for their money.

Checks should be made payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and designated to Disaster Relief on the memo line, then mailed to MBCB at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. For more information, contact the MBCB Men's Ministry Department at the above address. E-mail: [dvail@mccb.org](mailto:dvail@mccb.org). Telephone: toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 335, or (601) 292-3335. Web site: [mccb.org](http://mccb.org).

Meanwhile, Baptist Press (BP) reported Hurricane Michael damaged at least 50 Southern Baptist church buildings in Florida and Georgia with some virtually destroyed, according to initial estimates.

"It's like being hit by a bomb and your life is just disrupted, turned upside down, and you begin to try to put the pieces back together," said Dwight Woods, pastor of 200-member Family of God Church in Panama City, FL, told BP.

At Family of God Church's west campus, the fellowship hall collapsed and 30 feet of the sanctuary roof was ripped off, while the church's east campus saw half of the roof torn off and module buildings damaged, Woods reported to BP.

## 75 FOUNDATION FLASHBACK IS

Highlights from the history of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation shared in the format of their original publication in *The Baptist Record*. The following article was published on January 15, 1970.

### "The Talking Dead"

By Carey E. Cox  
Executive Secretary

Mississippi Baptist Foundation

Did you ever hear a dead person talking? Do we shudder at such a thought or say impossible? Yet, the Bible recognizes such to be a reality and we may even conclude that all the dead continue to speak in this world. We are told that Abel "being dead yet speaketh." (Heb. 11:4)

Lives touched on mission fields by Cooperative Program dollars touch other lives and start chain reactions which shall last until the end of time.

The total harvest for the seed which we sow is not all gathered in when we draw our last breath.

We hear William and Catherine Booth on the street corners of our cities today. Evangelical Christianity today hears the voice of Martin Luther declaring "the just shall live by faith." David Livingstone did not discontinue lighting gospel lamps in Africa when he drew his last breath.

The voice of the Wesleys is heard regularly around the world. Not

only do our works follow us into eternity but follow us in time after we have departed this world physically.

Christian stewardship is not limited to what we bring to the Lord's treasury on Sunday. We are as much responsible to God for how we leave an estate as for how we make it.

That which we leave when we die can make it more difficult to win victories for Christ, or it can continue to give strength and support to his work. The stewardship of the estate is as important as any other aspect of Christian stewardship.

The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is a tremendous service channel through which Christian resources and Christian love may serve the Lord down here after we go to live with Him up there. The Mississippi Baptist Foundation is your denominational agency through which many who are now with the Lord continue to educate young people, minister to children, heal the sick, preach, sing and serve on mission fields.

Invest in the work. Provide for the future. Touch your world.

>>> Join us as we celebrate 75 years of Mississippi Baptists who have supported Kingdom work by utilizing the services of the Foundation to facilitate their legacy giving. Come by and visit with the staff of your Mississippi Baptist Foundation during the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention on October 30, in the display area. You can also visit us at [msbaptistfoundation.org](http://msbaptistfoundation.org), call 601-292-3210, or e-mail [foundation@mccb.org](mailto:foundation@mccb.org).



## MS POSITIONS

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**SUNRISE BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEAKE CO. IS SEEKING A PART TIME MINISTRY ASSISTANT.** If interested please contact Sunrise Baptist Church at 601-298-9977 or email us at [sunrisebc21@gmail.com](mailto:sunrisebc21@gmail.com) for more info or application.

**PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH IN CARROLL COUNTY, MS IS LOOKING FOR A BI-VOCATION OR FULL TIME PASTOR.** Send resumes to P.O. Box 175, Carrollton, MS 38917 or email to [providencebaptistchurchcarroll@gmail.com](mailto:providencebaptistchurchcarroll@gmail.com)

**YOUTH MINISTER PART TIME JOURNEY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH CARRIERS.** Please send resumes to [journey\\_fellowship@yahoo.com](mailto:journey_fellowship@yahoo.com) or 7539 Hwy 11, Carriere MS 39426

**HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Persons interested may email resume to Corey Myers at [cmeyers913@gmail.com](mailto:cmeyers913@gmail.com) or mail to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601, attn.: Corey Myers. Position description available upon request. Deadline to apply is December 1, 2018.

**PEACH CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH IS LOOKING FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR.** Please send resumes by mail to: Adrian Overall 1855 Parks Place Rd. Como, MS. 38619 or email resumes to: [pjpatridge@gmail.com](mailto:pjpatridge@gmail.com).

**NEW PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, OLIVE BRANCH, MS IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL MUSIC DIRECTOR.** Please email resume to [rcurtis@newprospect.net](mailto:rcurtis@newprospect.net).

**DREW BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING A BI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR**— Please email resume to [drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com](mailto:drewbaptistchurch@gmail.com) or U.S. mail to Drew Baptist Church, 139 S Church St., Drew, MS 38737.

**WOODLAWN BAPTIST CHURCH, VICKSBURG, MS, SEEKING A PART TIME YOUTH PASTOR.** Email resume to [arutland@woodlawnbc.com](mailto:arutland@woodlawnbc.com).

**MINISTER OF MUSIC NEEDED/NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH, MONTICELLO, MS BI-VOCATIONAL/PART TIME JOB.** Sundays Only. If interested contact Office @601-587-2862 or send resume to 618 Carmel New Hope Rd, Monticello, MS 39654 or email: [nbbc@wb4me.com](mailto:nbbc@wb4me.com). College students welcome to apply. References required.

**UNITY BAPTIST CHURCH, MOSELLE, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR.** Please mail resumes to Unity Baptist Church, P.O. Box 156, Moselle, MS 39459. Or you may email them to [ubc.resumes@yahoo.com](mailto:ubc.resumes@yahoo.com). Either should be designated as Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

## BRUNSON

cont. from p. 1

"We pray that this crisis will remind us to continue to pray for those imprisoned by oppressive regimes around the world because of their religious faith," Moore said.

Southern Baptist Convention President J.D. Greear, pastor of The Summit Church in Durham, N.C., shared Moore's sentiment.

"Praise God! And yes, groups like @OpenDoors, whom we are grateful to partner with, are on front lines serving and ministering there," he said.

David Curry, president of Open Doors USA and a strong advocate religious freedom, lauded Trump's initiative for Brunson's release. "Turkey has done the right thing in allowing him to return to his home country. I applaud President Trump for the unrelenting pressure his administration applied to Turkey on this matter, in part through tariffs and sanctions.

"The president has rightly recognized that economic leverage can help bring positive change for human rights and can convey a powerful message of solidarity with oppressed religious minorities, especially persecuted Christians. In this case, it worked and was helpful in the release of an American Christian."

Former Southern Baptist Convention President Ronnie Floyd released an early morning statement hailing Brunson's release. The senior pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas and president of the National Day of Prayer Task Force said, "For two years, Christians in America and across the world have hit the floor with their knees in prayer for Andrew Brunson's release from his Turkish imprisonment. Today, our prayers were answered."

"As we celebrate Pastor Brunson's release, let us continue praying for the men and women who are still behind bars and facing persecution for their faith. As Scripture says, 'Remember those who are in

prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body' (Hebrews 13:3)."

Brunson's parents in Black Mountain, N.C., received the news in a phone call this morning, Reuters reported.

"Praise God! I'm so excited! Oh that's wonderful!" his mother Pamela Brunson told Reuters. "Well we were at an all-night prayer meeting during the trial and we got home and we fell asleep. We were up all night. ... We're so happy."

Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C., and a member of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), attended the hearing in Turkey, USCIRF said. Perkins praised the Trump administration and "many others" who advocated for Brunson's release.

"While we are relieved by today's decision on Pastor Brunson's unjust detention, we remain concerned for the Turkish people because numerous religious communities, such as the Greek Orthodox community and the Alevis, continue to face discrimination and restrictions on registration and ownership of property."

"Turkey must continue to work to treat all of its citizens equally and with respect for their religious freedom," Perkins said.

Evangelist Franklin Graham, whose Montreat, N.C., boyhood home is near Brunson's native community, thanked the Trump administration for Brunson's release.

"Our thanks to President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Mike Pence for their hard work on this issue. It wouldn't have happened without them," Graham said on Facebook. "I know that his family and friends here in North Carolina are anxious to welcome him home."

## Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published.

Preferred method: news may be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below; and must be included in the message segment of an e-mail form. Secondary method: news may be typewritten or neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper and mailed. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone. Due to ever-present virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments in JPEG format are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs must be submitted electronically via e-mail, as attachments in JPEG format. **Hard copy photographs mailed through the postal service will not be accepted.** Photographs must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, buildings, or object-only photographs will be printed. Photographs containing inappropriate gestures and objectionable clothing will not be published. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items that do not reproduce well on newsprint are generally not publishable.

There is no guarantee that news items and/or photographs will be published, and unsolicited material will not be acknowledged or returned. All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date. Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. These guidelines are not meant to be exhaustive.

Submit news to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: [baptistrecord@mbcb.org](mailto:baptistrecord@mbcb.org).

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**PULPIT SUPPLY AVAILABLE:** Retired Southern Baptist Navy chaplain available for Sunday pulpit supply on short notice (pastor illness, vacation, rest, etc.). 100 mile radius of Hattiesburg. Deacon of Hardy Street Baptist Church. Graduate of New Orleans Baptist and Fuller Theological Seminaries. References available. Compensation unimportant. Contact him at 601-408-4608 or [bennyhornsby.com](mailto:bennyhornsby.com)

## Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life. Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

## THE VILLAGE VIEW



Sean A. Milner, Executive Director  
P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242  
www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

### GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

#### OCTOBER 1-15

##### HONORS

Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy (Shirley) Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry V. Helms  
Mrs. Anne Wright  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel D. Wright, Jr.

#### OCTOBER 1-15

##### MEMORIALS

Mr. Billy Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie E. McNair  
Mr. Winkie Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronnie E. McNair  
Mrs. Lillian Ashley  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. DeLoach  
Ms. Genola Davis Barlow  
Ms. Patsy B. Cagle  
Mrs. Sylvia Sandifer Barnes  
Barefoot Springs BC  
Mr. Ed Cobb  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hays  
Mrs. Till Cochran  
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Bishop  
Mrs. Jo An Dobrilovic  
Mr. Paul J. Dobrilovic  
Mr. James Lowery "Larry" Dunn  
JOWIN Express  
Betty & Ronnie Crosby  
Mrs. Alva Falgout  
Mr. & Mrs. Warren Strickland  
Mr. E.J. Forman  
Mr. & Mrs. Rodis L. Wheeler  
Mrs. Blanche Marie Gavin  
Mrs. Betty A. Busby  
Mrs. Jean Gentry  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Williamson  
Mrs. Lee Griffin  
Mr. Bob Griffin  
Mrs. Patricia Halford  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Zumbro, Jr.  
Drew Harrington  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley  
Wendy Champion Hood

Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Mr. Matthew Kirk  
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Morgan Manuel  
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Mr. Wayne Maurer  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan  
Mr. Bobby Joe McKee  
Pheba BC  
Mr. Bill Mobley  
Mrs. Martha Ann May Klaus  
Mrs. Ruth Moss  
Mrs. Jean S. Moss and Family  
Mr. & Mrs. J.V. (Mary) Parker  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Parker  
Mr. Henry Breland "H.B." Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan  
Ms. Lynda Rushing  
Mr. & Mrs. Gene McMichael  
Marie Russell  
Ms. Patsy J. Zeidman  
Mrs. Mary Jane Saucier  
Ruth & Cheer SSC, Juniper  
Grove BC  
Mr. O.C. Smith  
Ruth & Cheer SSC, Juniper  
Grove BC  
Mrs. Patricia "Patsy" Terliun  
Mount Pleasant BC  
Mr. & Mrs. Sonny Newton  
Ms. Ellen Terrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman L. Dungan  
Andrea Tynes  
Mr. & Mrs. Jackie Wooley  
J.W. Waldrup  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen E. King  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Wigington  
Ms. Annette Wigington  
Mrs. Lanette Woods  
Mr. & Mrs. P. A. Vianey  
Mr. Loyd Ray "Wray"  
Mr. & Mrs. William Rex  
Patterson  
Mrs. Earlene Harwell Young  
Arlington BC

## You are invited

Come visit with our staff at The Baptist Children's Village booth at the Mississippi Baptist Pastor's Conference and Mississippi Baptist Convention,  
**October 29-31 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, MS.**

We will be there to share an update about your ministry and as always, we will serve punch and coffee and have our 2018 Christmas ornaments available.

*We look forward to visiting with you.*

## THANK YOU, PASTOR AND FRIEND!

Your commitment to Christ and His church is making  
a difference today and reaping eternal rewards.

The Baptist Children's Village was established as the Mississippi Baptist Orphanage in 1897 by a visionary and faithful pastor. In the 121 years since, God has continued to use visionary and faithful pastors to bless and keep us as we strive to love and serve at-risk children and families. Changing one life today changes generations.

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace."

NUMBERS 6:24-26 NKJV



## With Perseverance • James 1:2-15

In his letter to the churches of Galatia, Paul repeatedly made the point that we cannot earn our salvation. We can never do enough good works to merit the God of all creation leaving the glories of heaven, lowering Himself to become man, and dying on the cross for our sins. Salvation comes only by faith in Jesus. THEN, as James explains in his letter, because of our faith, good works will be a natural outgrowth of our Christian lives. In other words, we will not just talk the talk. We will walk the walk.

James reveals six characteristics of the Christian life. In this series, we will study the characteristics of perseverance, obedience, control, submission, anticipation, and works. However, before we begin our study on perseverance, let's consider the historical context of James' letter.

Important to note is the fact that there were five men named James in the New Testament. James, the son of Zebedee and brother of John, was an apostle. James, the son of Alphaeus was also an apostle. James the Less was the son of a woman named Mary but not Jesus' mother. An apostle named Judas, but not Judas Iscariot, was the son of a man named James.

The fifth James appears to have been the oldest of Jesus' younger brothers (Mt. 13:55, Mk. 6:3). James did not become a believer during Je-

sus' life on earth. I can only imagine how hard it must have been for James and his brothers to believe their big brother was the Messiah. However, following his resurrection, the Lord appeared to James and changed his life (1 Co. 15:7). Also, one commentary mentions that Jesus' other brothers also became believers and missionaries (1 Cor. 9:5). While not without argument, many recognize Jesus' brother James as the author of the epistle.

Following his conversion, James quickly became a leader in the early church and in the Council of Jerusalem. In Acts 15, we read of James mediating the disagreement about circumcision between Paul and Peter and settling the argument with his authoritative judgment. Also, James resolved another conflict in Acts 21. One commentary author writes that James was a "mediating voice in the church." Another commentary records, "Both Paul and Acts portray a James who was personally devoted to Jewish tradition but flexible enough to modify it to admit

non-Jews into Christian fellowship." The traditional view is that James became the leader of the Jerusalem church.

The Romans, who had been persecuting the Jews, expelled them from Rome during the reign of Claudius (A.D. 41-54). Persecution also intensified against Christians. James, the brother of John, was put to death by Herod the Great's grandson Herod Agrippa. Under Nero (A.D. 54-68), Peter and Paul were killed. According

to Historian Justo Gonzalez, James was killed in A.D. 62.

In 1:1, James reveals his audience, "the twelve tribes who are dispersed

abroad...." Long before Jesus' birth, Jews were leaving Palestine. By the time of the early church, Jews were scattered throughout the Roman Empire. These Jewish Christians were known as the Jewish Diaspora or dispersion. James was writing to the Jewish Diaspora.

Unlike Paul, James did not write to address theological issues. Instead, James wrote his letter to Jewish Chris-

tians, far and wide, as a moral appeal. He taught his readers that salvation through faith in Jesus is life-changing, and that radical change should be evident in how the Christian lives.

According to James, perseverance is an attribute of a radically changed life in Christ. James called on his readers to view trials as a means to a mature faith. When facing life's challenges, he encouraged them to ask God for wisdom, reminded his readers that the things of this earth are temporal but that the life given by Jesus is eternal, and pointed out that believers must guard against sin.

In a world gone crazy, I believe that we must persevere as we live our lives as radically saved Christians. We can learn a great deal from James because his letter reminds us of four truths. God uses the trials of life to mature the faith of believers. Believers can confidently ask for God to provide them with His wisdom. Believers can endure the trials of this life, knowing that eternal life with the loving Father awaits them. Believers must guard against allowing life's trials to entice them into sin.

McGraw is a NAMB-endorsed chaplain at Louisiana State Penitentiary and member of Woodville Church, Woodville.



Explore the Bible  
with Liz McGraw

## A Prayer of Praise • Matthew 6:9b; Psalm 96:1-9

Last week we focused on God as our Father. This week, we focus on the nature of His name and our attitude towards God as we pray. Matthew 6:9b reads, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name," (KJV). The word in this verse translated "hallowed," is the Greek word for Holy and is a verb with the meaning that we ask the Father to make His name Holy. Not a simple statement of God's nature, it is a request of the one praying for God to honor His own name.

For His children to call on God when we need something is natural. God certainly invites us to come to Him with our requests and petitions (Philippians 4:6 KJV). We should, however, consider what God wants as well. The first request in the Model Prayer is a petition for God's name to be honored as holy. We are to bring our requests to Him and seek an answer that brings honor and glory to God.

Our prayers should be driven by the desire to honor God. Jesus taught us, His disciples how to pray, and He began with our praying for God to honor His own name. Before we ask for what we need, or even for His will to be done, Jesus taught that we begin with praise to God. Psalm 96:1-3

reads, "O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people," (KJV).

As we pray and as we live, we declare among the lost the glory of God. The Psalmist wrote that we must show

His salvation daily and declare his wonders to everyone. As we pray, let us begin with praise to God and then obey this command by sharing His salvation with the lost who need to hear it. Our declaration of praise is both to God and about Him. Jesus taught us to pray asking that the Father honors His own name, and God's word demands that we also honor His name to the heathen. Since the Garden of Eden, when Satan tempted Adam and Eve to question God's word, we have been tempted to question God and stand less than firm on His word.

As we pray to the Father, let us express our faith in His name and may we honor it to the world.

God's splendor and majesty call us to honor Him. Psalm 96:4-6 reads, "For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens. Honour and majesty are before him:

strength and beauty are in his sanctuary," (KJV). As we begin our prayers, let us praise the Lord who made everything.

This verse states that He is great, and He is to be praised greatly.

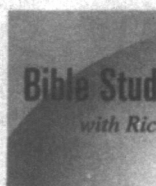
Psalm 100:4 commands, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name," (KJV). May our prayers be filled with praise and thanksgiving to the giver of salvation. How better to begin our prayers than acknowledging His holiness and greatness?

All parts of our lives are to be an offering that honors God, including our prayers.

Psalm 96:7-9 teaches, "Give unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering and come into his courts. O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness: fear before him, all the earth," (KJV). What does God ask from us? What can we give to God that He needs? Nothing, yet He asks that we give Him the glory due His name, and that we worship Him in the beauty of holiness. The Hebrew word here translated holiness, is the Old Testament equivalent of the New Testament word for saint, sanctified, and hallowed.

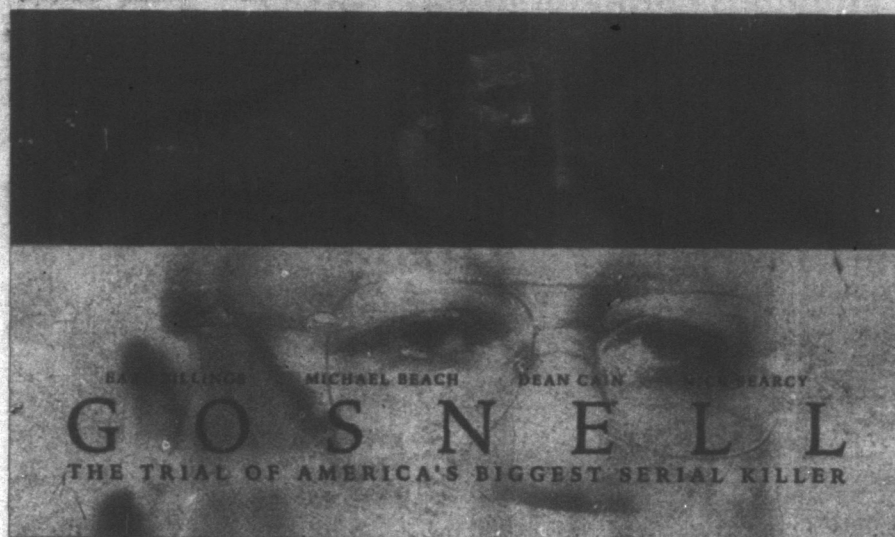
The lost need to hear that God is the Lord, and that all will one day answer to Him. Psalm 96:10 reads, "Day among the heathen that the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously," (KJV). As we pray, let us pray that God shares through us His power and righteousness to the lost.

Henson is a member of Meadow Grove Church, Brandon.



Bible Studies for Life  
with Rick Henson





## Upcoming movies may sway opinions in abortion debate

**NASHVILLE (BP)** — A trio of forthcoming movies, led by Gosnell that opened Oct. 12, could influence Americans thinking on abortion, pro-life activists and Christian movie critics have said.

“Christians have been behind the curve, and we’re just now starting to realize the importance of promoting the sanctity of unborn life through film,” Christian filmmaker and media consultant Phil Cooke of Burbank, Ca., told Baptist Press.

The potential impact of the movie Gosnell is indicated by “just how furious people on the other side, the pro-abortion people, have been in trying to stop the movie, trying to reduce its credibility, trying to not get it aired in theaters,” he noted.

Gosnell, produced by Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney, tells the true story of Philadelphia, Pa., abortionist Kermit Gosnell, who is serving three consecutive life sentences for murdering three infants born alive after botched abortion attempts and also committing involuntary manslaughter of a woman during another botched abortion.

Set for 2019 release are Unplanned, the story of Abby Johnson, a Planned Parenthood clinic director turned pro-life champion, and Roe v. Wade, which relates the backstory behind the landmark 1973 U.S. Supreme Court ruling.

The release of Gosnell has by-and-large not been covered in mainstream media outlets. That reality is “the result of both major neglect and active suppression of inconvenient truths,” conservative commentator Michelle Malkin wrote in a National Review magazine article.

Facebook and National Public Radio have refused to run paid advertising for Gosnell, and crowdsourcing website Kickstarter banned Gosnell’s

producers from using the platform to raise money, according to news media reports.

Nevertheless, Gosnell (rated PG-13 for realistic language and violent images) is “a must-watch for anyone who wants to understand the controversy over abortion in America,” Christian film critic Michael Foust told Baptist Press (BP).

“It does a great job spotlighting a group of heroic pro-choice prosecutors who did what was right in bringing the case,” said Foust, a Christian family author and promoter who covers entertainment for several Baptist state newspapers, “but it also does something more important by educating the public about abortion procedures and abortion laws.”

“Yes, what Kermit Gosnell did was illegal and horrific — snipping the spinal cords of babies — but let’s not forget that second- and third-trimester abortions take place in clinics every day in the U.S.,” Foust said in written comments.

“They remain legal. Doctors ensure the procedure’s legality by killing the unborn baby in the womb: injecting potassium chloride to stop its heart, suctioning out its brain and then ripping it apart limb by limb.”

There is a legal difference between what Kermit Gosnell did and what abortionists do, but there is no moral difference.

Gosnell could help change hearts and minds, Foust observed. “America once was a book culture. We persuaded one another through the printed word. That is no longer the case. Today, Americans develop their beliefs and worldview through mass media — movies, television, and even YouTube videos.”

The pro-life movement has had great success winning hearts and minds through the art of mass media persuasion,

and it would be foolish not to continue.”

The movie Roe v. Wade began filming earlier this year, according to media reports, and reportedly has had crew members resign over the film’s pro-life content. Unplanned co-writers and co-directors Chuck Konzelman and Cary Solomon who also co-wrote the movie, God’s Not Dead, told the Hollywood Reporter they’re preparing for opposition as the film nears release.

Despite such pushback, pro-life filmmakers should continue to share life-affirming stories, said Cooke, author of The Way Back: How Christians Blew Our Credibility and How We Got It Back.

“You get this drip, drip, drip in our culture today” of news reports and entertainment suggesting that “even up to the last minute, abortion should happen,” Cooke said. With “the accumulation” of such media content, “there’s no wonder we see the direction in our culture heading the way it is.”

Pro-life stories can help stem the cultural tide, Cooke believes.

A story “is something that may not dawn on you right away,” he said. “It may not be a revelation like a teaching moment but an hour, a day, a week later, suddenly that story goes off in your head and you realize, ‘I get it.’ When that happens, it’s so powerful.”

Other pro-life films recommended by Foust and Cooke include:

■ **Bella**, the story of a young woman who decides against abortion through a friend’s intervention.

■ **October Baby**, the story of a young adult who learns she survived a failed abortion attempt as an infant.

■ **Crescendo**, a short movie that tells how musical genius Beethoven nearly was aborted.

## Chinese religious repression rising rapidly, report says

**WASHINGTON (BP)** — Christians and ethnic minorities are living a nightmare in China under President Xi Jinping, as documented in a congressional commission report released Oct. 10.

Jinping’s unmerciful program to “Sinicize” religion into a government-controlled framework, marginalize ethnic minorities including Uyghur Muslims, and redefine human rights intensified in 2018 and made life a nightmare for civilians, U.S. Rep. and commission co-chair Chris Smith (R-N.J.) said in releasing the 2018 Annual Report of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC).

The full report and is available at [cecc.gov](http://cecc.gov).

“If you don’t comport with the Communist Party principle about everything you do to the ideology of Xi Jinping, you are going to be arrested, you are going to be tortured, and in many cases you are going to be killed,” Smith said.

“When Bibles are burned and Tibetan monks burned themselves in protests, when a simple prayer over a meal in public may be considered illegal religious gathering, when mosques and churches are demolished in Uyghur and Kazakh Muslims are forced to denounce their faith,” Smith said, “the China dream is a nightmare for millions upon millions of Chinese citizens.”

The 405-page report covering a one-year span ending in September documents “unprecedented repression of ethnic minorities” in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region; “dramatic increases” in Communist Party control of government, society and business; and the increased use of tech-

nology as a repression tool.

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-Fl.), the CECC chair, said the crackdown on religion in particular, through the increased scope of the United Front Work Department in overseeing religious affairs, underscores “the party’s enduring fear that the growth of religious belief is a threat to its grip on power.”

A political prisoner database, political prisoners of particular concern, and recommendations for the administration of U.S. Donald Trump and the United Nations are included in the report. Former political prisoner and ethnic Uyghur Rebiya Kadeer, who fled China in 2005 after securing a “compassionate release” from prison, was among audience members Rubio and Smith said had been personally and tragically affected by China’s oppression.

Under Jinping, China is more aggressive at home and abroad, the CECC said in summarizing its findings.

“We see an ascendant and increasingly aggressive China, seeking to take center stage in the world, and in so doing, determined to shape new global norms on development, trade, the internet, and even human rights,” the CECC said. “All the while, the fundamental authoritarian character of China’s political system remains the same.”

Rubio commended Chinese pastors and lay leaders who signed a “joint declaration for the sake of the Christian faith” in August and stated “their willingness to bear all losses” including freedom and life. More than 400 have signed the statement which remains active, Rubio said.



**FORMER PRISONER** — Rebiya Kadeer (standing second from right), an ethnic Uyghur and former political prisoner who fled China in 2005 after serving six years in prison, was formally recognized when the Congressional-Executive Commission on China released its 2018 Annual Report Oct. 10. At the podium are U.S. Representative Chris Smith (left) and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio, commission co-chair and chair, respectively. (BP photo/YouTube)